Clearance of Srisailam left bank Canal Scheme

1880. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Srisailam Left Bank Canal Scheme in Andhra Pradesh has since been cleared ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) : (a) to (c) The Project was returned to the State Governments in June, 1987 with a comment, among others, to clearly establish the water availability on long term basis. The State Government have not complied with the observations.

Income-tax raids on Indian Express Group of Companies

1881. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following recent raids on the Indian Express group of companies by the Income Tax Department Officials, re-opening of the completed tax assessments has been ordered from the assessment year 1972-73;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the details of the proceedings launched against the above companies and for what violations;

(c) what are the details of big business houses, if any, whose completed assessments since 1972-73 have been re-opened during the last five years; and

(d) what are the specific provisions under the Income Tax Rules to prevent harassments of the innocent by motivated officials and whether such instances have been reported to Government during the last three years, if so, what was the number thereof, year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Searches under Section 132 of the Inclme-tax Act were conducted on the Indian Express group of cases between 7th March, 1989 and 23rd March, 1989. The income-tax assessments of the concerns of this group were re-opened on the basis of investigations carried out and action initiated prior to the commencement of these searches as per the following details:

Name of the case	Assessment year	Date of re-opening
Andhra Prabha (P) Ltd., Madras	1983-84	8-3-1989
Express Newspapers Ltd., Madras	1972-73 to 1979-80	27-3-1989
Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., Bombay.	1973-74 to 1980-81	30-3-1989
Express Traders (Firm) Bombay	1976-77 to 1979-80	30-3-1989

(c) There are 76 large industrial houses and 19 single large undertakings which are listed by MRTP Commission as on 31st March, 1988. These houses and undertakings comprise of 1655 companies, in addition to several entities such as firms, HUFs and Individuals. All these companies, firms, HUFs and Individuals are assessed to tax